



2026 Madisonville Gar Rodeo

Jambalaya Cook Off Rules

July 25, 2026

Payment

Must register by Monday, July 20, 2025. Registration fee is \$25. Payment can be made via cash, check (contact Casey 985-705-2639) or by credit card at the registration link:

https://www.cognitoforms.com/CaseyCaresCommunityCharities/_2026MadisonvilleGarRodeoJambalayaCookOffRegistration

COOK OFF RULES:

Payment: Must register by Monday, July 20, 2026. Registration fee is \$25. Payment can be made via cash, check (contact Casey 985-705-2639) or by credit card.

Team Membership: The team membership will have a 4-participant maximum (1 chief cook and 3 additional members). You will be provided four wristbands to sample other teams foods.

Cooking Preparations: Each team is responsible for their own ingredients and cooking equipment. Each team must take care of their area (i.e. water, cleaning supplies, trashbags, tables, chairs and water for cooking purposes). Tents are recommended. 1-10x10 tent is allowed. Tent must be set-up in specified area. Teams are required to provide a sign describing what type of protein is used in their jambalaya (i.e. sausage, shrimp, wild game, etc.).

Cooking Area: All cooking must take place on the contest grounds. Each team should be prepared to feed a minimum of 50 people. It is the responsibility of the chief cook to maintain hospitable actions of their team members. Disorderly conduct may result in disqualification from jambalaya judges or rodeo staff. Vegetables, recipe ingredients, and proteins may be prewashed, pre-chopped and pre-peeled. Items must be cooked on site. You may bring pre-made stocks or broths. All cooking must be done within the time frame of the competition. Proteins may be marinated ahead of time but must remain in the marinade until the event cooking time begins.

Serving: Bowls, spoons and napkins for tasting portions provided to the public and judging will be provided by rodeo staff. Teams must be prepared to serve food to the public by 11:00am.

Judges: Judges will be local celebrities. This will be a blind judging where team members and their portions provided for judging will be anonymous. Teams must be prepared to serve food to the public by 11:00am. Judging portions will be picked up from your booth and delivered to the judging table at 12:45PM.

People's Choice Award

Each registered team will be assigned a designated voting jar for the People's Choice competition. People's Choice voting tickets will be sold by Rodeo staff for **\$10 per ticket**. Members of the public may cast their votes by placing their purchased tickets into the jar of the team they believe has the best-tasting entry.

Voting will begin when the event opens to the public at **11:00 a.m.** and will conclude promptly at **2:00 p.m.** The team receiving the greatest number of votes will be declared the **People's Choice Award** winner. Winners will be announced at **2:30 p.m.**

To ensure a fair competition, teams are **strictly prohibited** from purchasing tickets on behalf of voters, reimbursing voters, offering money, prizes, food, drinks, discounts, or any other incentive in exchange for votes, or engaging in any form of bribery or vote-buying. Any team found to be participating in bribery, vote-buying, or other attempts to improperly influence the outcome of the People's Choice voting will be **immediately disqualified** from the People's Choice competition at the sole discretion of event organizers.

Vehicles: For safety purposes, no vehicles are allowed on park grounds. NO EXCEPTIONS

Booth Setup: Booth setup time will begin at 6:00 am on the morning of the event. If electricity is necessary, it is the responsibility of the team to bring their own generator.

Each team will be allotted a 10x20 area for them to work in. Whatever your team can fit into that 10x20 area is permitted. NO EXCEPTIONS- space is limited.

Booth Breakdown: Please breakdown your area by 3:00pm. We will stop charging for wristbands at 2:00pm. Taking bags or containers of food from the event site before the event ends is strongly discouraged.

Event Timeline

Friday, July 24, 2026 (Optional Early Setup)

- Teams are welcome to arrive and set up their cooking areas on **Friday, July 24**.
- Overnight security will be provided; however, teams are responsible for securing their own equipment and personal belongings.
- **No cooking or food preparation is permitted on Friday.** All cooking for the competition must take place on **Saturday, July 25** during the official cooking period.

Saturday, July 25, 2026 (Competition Day)

6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. – Final Team Setup & Check-In

7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Official Cooking Time

11:00 a.m. – Public Serving Begins

12:45 p.m. – Judging Samples Due at the Judges' Table

1:00 p.m. – Official Judging Begins

2:00 p.m. – People's Choice Voting Ends

2:30 p.m. – Awards Ceremony

3:00 p.m. – Cleanup and Departure